

COUNTRY SUBJECT

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25X1 INFO.

	INFORMATION R	REPORT NO.
	1	CD NO.
UNTRY	Czechoslovakia	DATE DISTR. 6 February 1953
BJECT	Army Reorganization	NO. OF PAGES 1
TE OF O.	Czechoslovakia Army Reorganization	NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)
CE QUIRED		SUPPLEMENT TO 25 REPORT NO.

- There will be a complete reorganization of the Czechoslovak Army, beginning 1 January 1953, according to plans drawn up by the Soviet General Staff in Moscow. General Vaclav Thor has not yet returned from there, and there is the greatest uncertainty among the officers of Cepička's entourage.
- 2. The Czech Army will be divided into seven corps; three in Bohemia, two in Moravia and two in Slovakia. The strength of a division will be fixed at 9,000 men. Units of special arms and motorized units will be organized separately and their strength will vary according to the mission of the corps. Armored divisions, heavy artillery and cavalry will form part of a special army corps and will be attached to other corps for specialized missions.
- 3. The carrying out of this plan will completely alter the structure of the Czechoslovak Army, which now has three complete corps and one incomplete corps with only two divisions, but supplied with organic artillery, armored units, special arms and cavalry.
- 4. Czechoslovak officers fear that the reform will make their army an army of infantry and that the armored divisions, artillery and special arms, once detached, will be sent to Russ'a to be trained with Polish and Hungarian units. The Soviets consider the Czech officer orps as politically unreliable and the plan would deprive it of any importance.

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